



**Texas Master Naturalist Brazos Valley Chapter
Meeting Minutes for February 13, 2014
Biodiversity Research and Teaching Collections (BRTC)**

Attendance: Elrey Ash, Olivia Ash, Jim Balthrop, Amanda Chau, Joyce Connor, Mike Connor, Terry Junek, Rick Laughlin, Sarah Laughlin, Cheryl Lewis, Bruce Neville, Barbara Pritchard, Jay Pritchard, Amanda Schwede, Betty Vermiere.

Sarah Laughlin called the meeting to order at 5:38 PM.

I. Officer and Committee Reports

A. President - Sarah Laughlin –

1. Lick Creek Park: Friends of Lick Creek invited Rick and Sarah to their board meeting to talk about how BVTMN and RBAS can work with FoLCP on city's new renovations for the park and the nature center, i.e. pecan trees versus another variety, parking lot, better planning for pathways, putting in a garden, insects, etc. The city said they would be open to the suggestions. Rick and Sarah will attend the FoLCP's board meeting next Tuesday and Sarah will send out an email on what is discussed. Topics for Sarah to bring up at their board meeting: Jim Balthrop-need more parking. Betty Vermiere-too many trees can cause a problem with new fence. Olivia As-post oak trees versus another kind.
2. Brazos Valley Earth Day Festival (April 5th)-If we are going to do it we need to volunteer by the deadline, March 14th. Joyce Connor suggested there be a point of contact for every event and that person be assigned to the event. Olivia Ash suggested the city get a minimum ten-foot table in future. Joyce Connor will make sure reservation is done by the deadline and that there are people assigned as points of contact.

B. Vice President - Bruce Neville – We have programs for March and are sending out emails for future. Mike Connor requested that Bruce email him and Joyce when presentations are know so that he can put it on the calendar and Joyce can advertise it. Bruce will get the computer to Cheryl Lewis today.

C. Secretary- Amanda Schwede - Sign in; approval of Jan 2014 meeting minutes. Approved with Sarah Laughlin's correction (did not receive a post office key). Bruce Neville has that key.

D. Treasurer- Amanda Chau – Current bank account balance \$3795.19. Please turn in your 2014 dues (\$15-check or cash, exact change)-37 paid

to date. A special meeting was called and the Executive Board met on February 10th to discuss and set our 2014 budget. Will vote in October or November 2014 on amount of increase of dues (\$20 or \$25)

E. Committees

1. Outreach – Joyce Conner and Cheryl Lewis, Co-Chairs – At committee meeting decided on aggressive promotion of chapter. Always be thinking of promoting our chapter, will be making boards and building easels, solicit speakers, encouraging more members to join our committee, tweeting/blogging/Facebooking, making business cards, bulletin boards. Jackie Girourd owns and monitors BVTMN Facebook page. Amanda Chau-suggested maybe not having an individual own the BVTMN Facebook page and to have it owned by BVTMN as a whole, such as what we did with BVTMN Google groups.
2. Membership – Betty Vermiere, Chair – Pins have yet to arrive. Sent a request in early January. Had not shown up at January meeting. Emailed again at three weeks and copied Michelle Haggerty. He said he sent them. Said he didn't have enough monarch pins to fill the request. Indicated when more pins arrive, they will be sent. She will email him again.
3. Advanced Training –Joyce Conner, Chair – Joyce is sending out fewer emails because she's trying to concentrate on more local activities. If not on the pre-approved list, email it to her and she will get it to the web committee to post on the web calendar.
4. Volunteer Service Project – Mike Conner, Chair –
5. Host/Social – Melissa Kamerbeek and Jim Balthrop, Co-Chairs – Melissa has list of who signed up for what. Jim is learning the ropes.
6. Historian – Terry Juneke, Chair – Put a lot of pictures on the website. Mike Connor said we need to put up more pictures.
7. Web – Mike Conner, Chair – He would like to list people with pictures and contact information, like a photo album, rather than a spreadsheet. Would still be kept in the members-only area. Amanda Chau suggested posting only the active members. Joyce suggested also listing the physical address.
8. Program – Bruce Neville, Chair –see above
9. New Member Training – Olivia Ash, Chair –Met in early February. September 9 through November 11, every Tuesday, for ten weeks. Five field trips-two in September, one in October, two in November. Had people appointed to contact speakers. Few changes in speakers. May try something different that soils; tenners instead (ten trees, ten shrubs, ten flowers). Waiting to see if speakers dates will coincide with the training calendar.

II. Old Business

- A.** Millican Reserve-Joyce Conner said someone needs to accept the lead. Olivia Ash said a decision still hasn't been made.

III. New Business

- A. Kitty Anding-hand out 2012 nametags. She will be ordering 2013 name tags soon. Let her know if you need to order a replacement (\$5).
- B. Joyce Connor and Betty Vermiere-looking at new shirts from CC Creations. Variety of colors and threads available at various costs.

IV. Announcements

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

General Meeting

Attendance: Elrey Ash, Olivia Ash, Jim Balthrop, Amanda Chau, Joyce Connor, Mike Connor, Terry Junek, Rick Laughlin, Sarah Laughlin, Cheryl Lewis, Bruce Neville, Barbara Pritchard, Jay Pritchard, Amanda Schwede, Betty Vermiere.++++++

	FY2014 (Proposed)	FY 2013 (Actual)
Revenue sources:		
Membership dues	\$555.00 from 37 members	\$720.00 from 48 members
New Member Training		\$256.02 \$2010- \$1753.98
Total:	\$555.00	<u>\$976.02</u>
Expenses (itemized):		
Outreach/Promotion	-\$350.00	-\$382.58
Program	-\$450.00 10-\$25 gift cards, 2-\$100 travel	-\$250.00 10 \$25 B&N gift cards for speakers
Education/Workshop	-\$100.00	-\$89.28
MISC	-\$50.00	-\$62.03 Mac cable, flash drive, stamps, en
Assets		-\$167.73 Canopy, tables, storage keys
PO Box Rental	-\$40.00	-\$40.00
Extension Banquet	-\$250.00	-\$250.00
Total expenses:	-\$1,240.00	<u>-\$1,241.62</u>
		-\$265.60
Liquid asset (nest egg)	\$3,000.00 In the bank	
Rainy Day Fund	\$1,500.00 (Proposed nest egg to set aside)	

The 2014 Budget was discussed on 02/10/2014 at BRTC and was approved by

Olivia Ash	Melissa Kamerbeek
Jim Balthrop	Sarah Laughlin
Amanda Chau	Bruce Neville
Mike Conner	Betty Vermeire
Joyce Conner	

The Executive Board also approved raising 2015 membership due from \$15 to either \$20 or \$25 and will bring this up in our October meeting for membership to vote and approve.

